Rome 1st Dec. 1868

My dear Tom

This is to tell you that I have ordered £5 to be paid to you for dear Maria but I could not get a Bank note as usual

I so fear that you are ill as you have not answered me about Cairo & Corfu but I sent my letter to Cairo Egypt I have heard from dear Caroline who is now at Pisa & will be here in Lent

Since I wrote you I have been at Deaths door from inflamation of the bowels & have had a sad fight of it for 6 weeks, but I have rallied & am now convalescent, but sadly weak all the time I have been most kindly attended, particularly by my 2 Secs Ty who have been like my Sons, indeed every one about me

I answered Caroline & shall have great pleasure to see her & those by them to be well on my legs which at present are mere drum sticks

Pardon that too weak to write more at present

Your loving brother
Joe

PS

I am sorry you will have trouble to take this to the Banker but a Bank note was not to be found